Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method used by a first application for supporting concurrent operation of a plurality of network compatible applications, comprising the steps of:

receiving user identification information;

initiating authentication of said user identification information; and

communicating a URL to a managing application for storage, said URL being for use in acquiring a web page providing a <u>single</u> logon menu to support user access to a plurality of different applications <u>individually requiring user logon information</u> in response to said authenticated user identification information.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein

<u>said plurality of different applications individually require different user logon information</u>

~~said communicating step also includes communicating additional parameters to said managing application for storage, said additional parameters including one or more of, (a) an authentication service identifier, (b) a language identifier, (c) a frame identifier identifying a browser frame to be used, (d) a timeout value and (e) user identification information.~~

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, including the step<u>s</u> of

<u>said communicating step also includes communicating additional parameters to said managing application for storage, said additional parameters including one or more of, (a) an authentication service identifier, (b) a language identifier, (c) a frame identifier identifying a browser frame to be used, (d) a timeout value and (e) user identification information and</u>

receiving parameters from said managing application including one or more of, ~~(a)~~ <u>(i)</u> a session identifier corresponding to a particular user logon initiation, ~~(b)~~ <u>(ii)</u> a session key for use in encrypting or decrypting URL data and ~~(c)~~ <u>(iii)</u> a parameter identifying success or failure of a request to establish a session.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein

said URL is for use in acquiring a web page providing a common logon menu to support user access to a plurality of different applications including said first application following termination of said first application.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein

said communicating step communicates a timeout value to said managing application for determining an inactivity period for triggering automatic logoff of at least one of a plurality of concurrently open applications.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 1, including the steps of

communicating an authentication service identifier to said managing application; and

receiving a user identification code associated with said authentication service from said managing application.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein

said step of communicating a URL to said managing application comprises encrypting said URL and communicating an encoded URL to said managing application.

8. (Currently Amended) A system supporting concurrent operation of a plurality of network compatible applications, comprising:

a browser application for receiving user identification information and for initiating communication of said user identification information to a second application in response to user selection of an icon displayed in a browser window; and

a managing application for receiving a URL from said second application for storage, said URL being for use in acquiring a web page providing a single logon menu to support user access to a plurality of different applications individually requiring user logon information in response to said authenticated user identification information.

9. (Original) A system according to claim 8, wherein

said managing application receives additional parameters from said second application including one or more of, (a) an authentication service identifier, (b) a language identifier, (c) a frame identifier identifying a browser frame to be used, (d) a timeout value and (e) authenticated user identification information.

10. (Original) A system according to claim 8, wherein

said managing application communicates parameters to said second application including one or more of, (a) a session identifier corresponding to a particular user logon initiation, (b) a session key for use in encrypting or decrypting URL data and (c) a parameter identifying success or failure of a request to establish a session.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 8, wherein

said managing application communicates a timeout period value to said plurality of different applications for determining an inactivity period for triggering logoff of individual applications inactive for said timeout period.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 8, wherein

said managing application maps a received authentication service identifier to a corresponding user identifier; and

communicates said corresponding user identifier to at least one of said plurality of different applications.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 8, wherein

said managing application stores a user identifier and corresponding authentication service identifier received from said second application for use in determining a user identifier corresponding to said stored authentication service identifier for said plurality of different applications.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 8, wherein
said managing application decrypts said received URL.

15. (Currently Amended) A system supporting concurrent operation of a plurality of Internet compatible applications including first and second applications, comprising:

a web browser application including,

a user interface display generator for generating a browser window containing icons enabling user initiation of operation of said first and second applications; and

a menu generator for providing a logon menu common to said plurality of Internet compatible applications individually requiring user logon information by acquiring a web page providing said common logon menu from a logon web page URL address provided to said browser application by said second application, said logon web page URL address being conveyed from said first application to said second application in response to user initiation of said second application via said browser window.

16. (Original) A system according to claim 15, wherein

said logon menu permits user entry of identification information including a userid and password.

17. (Original) A system according to claim 15, wherein

said logon web page URL address is conveyed from said first application to said second application following communication of said URL address to a managing application and retrieval of said URL address from said managing application by said second application.

18. (Original) A system according to claim 15, wherein

said logon web page URL address is conveyed from said first application to other applications of said plurality of Internet compatible applications following activation of said other applications.

19. (Original) A system according to claim 15, wherein

said menu generator provides said logon menu in response to at least one condition of, (a) initial logon, (b) upon logoff from a session of activity, (c) a termination condition arising from an error condition and (d) upon time-out condition arising due to inactivity of said second application.

20. (Currently Amended) A system used by a first application for supporting concurrent operation of a plurality of Internet compatible applications, comprising:

an authentication processor for receiving user identification information and for initiating authentication of said user identification information; and

a communication processor for communicating a URL to a managing application for storage, said URL being for use in acquiring a web page providing a single logon menu to support user access to a plurality of different applications individually requiring user logon information in response to said authenticated user identification information.

21. (Currently Amended) A system used by a managing application for supporting concurrent operation of a plurality of network compatible applications, comprising:

a processor for receiving and storing a URL from a first application, said URL being for use in acquiring a web page providing a single logon menu to support user access to a plurality of different applications; and

a communication processor for communicating said URL and a session identifier to a second application of said plurality of different applications individually requiring user logon information in response to a request by said second application to said managing application to establish a session of user operation.

22. (Original) A system according to claim 21, wherein

said logon menu is provided for logon in at least one condition of, (a) initial logon, (b) upon logoff from a session of activity, (c) a termination condition arising from an error condition and (d) upon time-out condition arising due to inactivity of said second application.

23. (Currently Amended) A method supporting concurrent operation of a plurality of network compatible applications, comprising the steps of:

receiving and storing a URL from a first application, said URL being for use in acquiring a web page providing a single logon menu to support user access to a plurality of different applications; and

communicating said URL and a session identifier to a second application of said plurality of different applications individually requiring user logon information in response to a request by said second application to said managing application to establish a session of user operation.

24. (Currently Amended) A method for use in a system supporting concurrent operation of a plurality of Internet compatible applications including first and second applications, comprising the steps of:

generating a browser window containing icons enabling user initiation of operation of said first and second applications; and

providing a <u>single</u> logon menu common to said plurality of Internet compatible applications <u>individually requiring user logon information</u> by acquiring a web page providing said common logon menu from a logon web page URL address provided to said browser application by said second application, said logon web page URL address being conveyed from said first application to said second application in response to user initiation of said second application via said browser window.